

SENATE BILL 84

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2003 Regular Session
3lr0534

By: **Senators Kelley, Conway, Della, Gladden, Hafer, Lawlah, McFadden,
Stone, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2003

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Labor and Employment - Unemployment Insurance - Weekly Benefits**
3 **Calculation**

4 FOR the purpose of modifying the method for calculating an individual's
5 unemployment insurance weekly benefits under certain circumstances;
6 prohibiting wages used for a certain calculation from being used under certain
7 circumstances; and generally relating to unemployment insurance benefits.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Labor and Employment
10 Section 8-803(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

13 **Preamble**

14 WHEREAS, Many Maryland employers routinely offer certain permanent jobs
15 only on a part-time basis; and

16 WHEREAS, Some laid-off workers have a long and productive history of
17 part-time employment; and

18 WHEREAS, Many workers available only for part-time work do not qualify to
19 receive unemployment insurance benefits; and

20 WHEREAS, Part-time workers laid off through no fault of their own should
21 have increased access to unemployment insurance benefits; now, therefore,

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1

Article - Labor and Employment

2 8-803.

3 (a) (1) To determine the weekly benefit amount to assign to a claimant in
4 the schedule of benefits in subsection (b) of this section, the line in the schedule of
5 benefits shall be located in which the high quarter wages in column (A) correspond to
6 wages that the claimant was paid for covered employment in the calendar quarter of
7 the claimant's base period in which those wages were highest.

8 (2) The claimant shall be assigned:

9 (i) the weekly benefit amount in column (B) of the schedule for
10 that line; or

11 (ii) if the claimant is not eligible under § 8-802 of this subtitle for
12 that weekly benefit amount but was paid wages to qualify in 1 of the next 6 lower
13 lines of the schedule, the weekly benefit amount in the next lower line in column (B)
14 of the schedule.

15 (3) (I) IF AN INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT WAGES IN THE
16 BASE PERIOD TO QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS, THE INDIVIDUAL'S ALTERNATIVE BASE
17 PERIOD SHALL BE THE LAST 4 COMPLETE CALENDAR QUARTERS IMMEDIATELY
18 PRECEDING THE FIRST DAY OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S BENEFIT YEAR.

19 (II) WAGES USED IN THE ALTERNATIVE BASE PERIOD
20 CALCULATION IN THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE USED IN QUALIFYING FOR A
21 SUBSEQUENT BENEFIT YEAR.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
23 effect October 1, 2003.